



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 398/2024

Archeepiscopal Encyclical for Thanksgiving

November 28, 2024

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America:

Let us give thanks unto the Lord. (The Divine Liturgy)

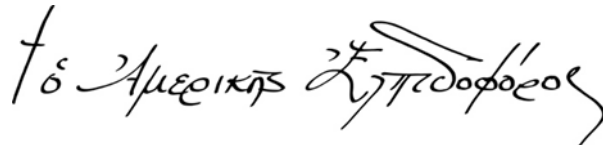
Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

Thanksgiving Day is a wondrous National Holiday that calls Americans to gather in a spirit of gratitude around their kitchen and dining tables. It is a moment to take stock of our lives and remind ourselves that we have so much for which to be grateful. Grateful to one another, and even more so, grateful to God. With all the food preparations and travels that happen before this fourth Thursday in November (and we thank all those who set the table for us!), we must also look to the Author of our lives and give a clear account of our hearts.

Our human lives are the greatest gift that we could ever receive. And although many go through decades of their lives without so much as a thought to the gift of their own existence, we can and should heed the words of the Divine Liturgy: "Let us give thanks unto the Lord." No Liturgy is complete without this exhortation, and no Thanksgiving Holiday is complete without an acknowledgment of God's gift of our very being and existence.

I know that I am enormously thankful for all of the faithful members of our Church, because it is through your prayers and your support that our ministry of God's love and care for the world is energized. On this Thanksgiving Day — and every day — let us give thanks unto the Lord, Who has gifted us with life and the knowledge of His truth. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

In the love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in Greek script, reading "Ὁ Ἀμερικᾶνς Ἐλπίδοφορος". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial letter.

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 398/2024

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος για την ημέρα τῶν Εὐχαριστιῶν.

28 Νοεμβρίου 2024

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τὶς Πρεσβυτέρες καὶ τὶς Διακόνισσες, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἄρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

«Εὐχαριστήσωμεν τῷ Κυρίῳ» (Θεία Λειτουργία).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Ἡ ἡμέρα τῶν Εὐχαριστιῶν εἶναι μία θαυμάσια ἐθνικὴ ἑορτὴ ὅλων τῶν ἀμερικανῶν, πὺ μᾶς καλεῖ νὰ συγκεντρωθοῦμε γύρω ἀπὸ τὸ κοινὸ εὐχαριστηριακὸ οἰκογενειακὸ τραπέζι μὲ εὐγνωμοσύνη πρὸς τὸ Θεό. Ἀποτελεῖ τὴν κατάλληλη εὐκαιρία νὰ ἀναλογισθοῦμε τὴ ζωὴ μας, ὑπενθυμίζοντας στὸν ἑαυτό μας ὅτι ἔχουμε πολλὰ γιὰ τὰ ὁποῖα ὀφείλουμε εὐγνωμοσύνη, ὁ ἕνας γιὰ τὸν ἄλλον καὶ ἰδίως πρὸς τὸ Θεό. Ὅλες αὐτὲς οἱ προετοιμασίες εἴτε γιὰ τὴν ἑορταστικὴν τράπεζα εἴτε γιὰ τὰ ταξίδια πὺ θὰ πραγματοποιήσουμε κατὰ τὸ

διάστημα πρὶν ἀπὸ τὴν Πέμπτη τῆς τετάρτης ἐβδομάδος τοῦ Νοεμβρίου (εὐχαριστοῦμε ὅλους αὐτοὺς ποὺ ἐτοιμάζουν τὸ ἑορταστικὸ τραπέζι γιὰ ἐμᾶς), ἅς μὴ μᾶς ἐμποδίσουν ἀπὸ τὸ νὰ στραφοῦμε πρὸς τὸ δημιουργὸ τῆς ζωῆς μας προσφέροντάς του εὐχαριστία ἀπὸ τὰ βάθη τῆς καρδίας μας.

Ἡ ἴδια ἡ ζωὴ μας εἶναι τὸ μεγαλύτερο δῶρο τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ ἂν ἀρκετοὶ ζοῦν δεκαετίες χωρὶς νὰ καθόλου νὰ τὸ σκεφθοῦν καὶ νὰ εὐχαριστήσουν τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ αὐτὸ τὸ μέγιστο δῶρο τῆς ἴδιας τῆς ὑπάρξεώς τους, ἐμεῖς μπορούμε καὶ ὀφείλουμε νὰ προσέξουμε τὰ λόγια τῆς Θείας Λειτουργίας: «Εὐχαριστήσωμεν τῷ Κυρίῳ»! Ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία δὲν εἶναι πλήρης χωρὶς αὐτὴ τὴν προτροπή, ὅπως καὶ ἡ ἡμέρα τῶν Εὐχαριστιῶν δὲν εἶναι πλήρης χωρὶς τὴν ἀναγνώριση τῆς ἴδιας τῆς ὑπάρξεώς μας ὡς δώρου Θεοῦ.

Εἶμαι ἐξαιρετικὰ εὐγνώμων γιὰ ὅλους ἐσᾶς, τοὺς πιστοὺς τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, διότι μὲ τίς προσευχὲς καὶ τὴν ὑποστήριξή σας κάνετε νὰ ζωντανεύει ἡ διακονία τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Θεοῦ γιὰ τὸν κόσμον. Αὐτὴ τὴν ἡμέρα τῶν Εὐχαριστιῶν, ἀλλὰ καὶ κάθε ἡμέρα τῆς ζωῆς μας, ἅς εὐχαριστήσουμε τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ τὸ δῶρο τῆς ζωῆς καὶ τῆς γνώσεως τῆς ἀληθείας του. Σᾶς εὐχομαι μία εὐλογημένη ἡμέρα τῶν Εὐχαριστιῶν!

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἀγάπης ἐν Κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ,



+ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος